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vitality and the up-to-dateness of this book. He has illustrated the application of the theories so really as to dissipate that atmosphere of recondite minutiae so repellant to the student. Dr. Veditz is himself responsible for much of the unusually satisfactory discussion on distribution and consumption. He has added this material in accordance with Professor Gide's own idea, and in so scholarly a manner as to retain full unity and harmony with the original while adding just completeness to the treatment of these topics.

WALTER E. KRUESI.

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Goodnow, Frank J., LL.D. *City Government in the United States.* American State series, edited by W. W. Willoughby. Pp. x, 315. Price, \$1.25. New York: Century Company, 1904.

Professor Goodnow has conceived his subject in the broadest sense. He refrains from giving a mere recital of legal provisions, probably because he understands the problem of city administration to include the activity of the city rather than the methods of organization employed in city government. From the standpoint of the citizen it is this operative side of municipal administration which is interesting. The author discusses the position of the city in its subordination to the State, and reviews the general questions of municipal home rule. These questions are necessarily affected by the uncertain condition of the public mind as to what the precise sphere of city functions should be. "The whole matter of municipal functions, therefore, is in a state of flux. What may be a municipal function at one time in a given State may not be at another. . . . But we shall probably see in the future, as we have seen in the past, a continual encroachment of the State on what has been recognized as the domain of the city, due to the fact that what the city is doing has become of interest to the State as a whole."

After a brief contrast between foreign conditions and those of the United States, showing that abroad the city is a natural unit which has grown up out of local conditions, whereas the American city is a creation of the State legislature, Professor Goodnow examines the principal means of controlling city affairs, now exerted by American State governments. The author also gives a summary of the organization of the city legislature or council. The greater part of the book, however, is devoted to a review of the administrative side of city government. This is a practical recognition of the fact that the weaknesses of our city governments are largely administrative rather than legislative in character. Pursuing this thought, Professor Goodnow does not aim to give a complete discussion of all the administrative functions of the municipality, but concentrates his attention upon those duties of the city which form the main points of discussion at the present time. These are the duties and powers of the mayor, police administration, the department of charities and correction, school administration, the departments of public works and the fiscal administration. A chapter is devoted to each of these, and in each chapter a brief historical resumé, with a description of existing conditions and a critical review, is given. By far

the most interesting part of the book is the chapter devoted to the "Participation of the People in the City Government." Professor Goodnow points out that it is possible for a large vote to be cast in the cities of the United States "by a more or less floating population which has no real or abiding interest in the affairs of the municipality." He shows that the feeling of neighborhood is stronger in the rural communities than in the city, that offices are much more numerous in the city, and that urban administration is more complex than that of a rural district. For these reasons the elective principle should not be indiscriminately applied in the choice of city officers but should be modified by an extensive employment of the appointing power. The author concludes this chapter with a review of the attempts which have been made to form distinct city parties in order to enlist the citizens in the cause of efficient government. He summarizes the results achieved by the Citizens' Union in New York and the Municipal Voters' League in Chicago, concluding that the principles adopted in both cases are in the main sound and are based upon the practical needs and conditions of the two cities.

Professor Goodnow's book will be found eminently readable and useful as a text. Its value in the latter respect might be enhanced by the addition of a selected bibliography.

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Herrick, Cheesman A. *Meaning and Practice of Commercial Education.* Pp. xv, 378. Price, \$1.25. New York: Macmillan Company, 1904.

The author, who is the Director of the School of Commerce of the Philadelphia Central High School, has furnished much desirable information as to the status and value of commercial education in the world to-day. The work is a distinct service, because it gives us the first complete collection of facts and figures on the subject. The reading will prove with what judgment these have been selected, how clearly and succinctly expressed, and in what most logical and convincing manner they have been arranged.

Dr. Herrick's thesis is that "no *best* scheme of education can be devised either for all the people at any one time, or for a part of the people for all time." To put it in another way, we are a progressive and a composite society, and our educational needs demand a composite and progressive educational equipment. The forms of instruction which provide for classical, literary, scientific and industrial life work have become established and understood, and we are now getting a form "which both directly and indirectly prepares the future business man for his calling," and which will "raise commerce above mere commercialism."

Plainly and tersely we are shown the development and the progress which has been made in providing such courses of instruction in Germany, France and Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, England and the United States. The separate treatment of each is to be praised, for it provides a distinct concept for each and makes more ready the comparison with our American